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Soviet arms aid to Ethiopia estimated at nearly \$1 billion

Washington (Reuter)—The Soviet Union has committed close to \$1 billion in military aid to Ethiopia, a Central Intelligence Agency official said yesterday.

Soviet military equipment has been flowing to both Ethiopia and Angola faster than local forces can absorb it, Frank Carlucci, deputy CIA director, told a Senate Armed Forces subcommittee hearing.

He said the degree of Soviet and Cuban military activity in sub-Saharan Africa was unprecedented.

"We are witnessing the most determined campaign to expend foreign influence in this troubled region since it was carved up by the European powers in the late Nineteenth Century," Mr. Carlucci said.

"The Soviet military aid equipment to Ethiopia now ranges close to \$1 billion," he said.

Aid deliveries include more than 400

tanks, more than 50 Soviet MIG fighters and huge quantities of armored cars, personnel carriers and artillery. Soviet and Cuban general officers planned and coordinated combat operations in Ethiopia involving more than 16,000 troops.

Mr. Carlucci said there were even more Cuban soldiers in Angola, with thousands of them engaged in active combat against forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in the southern part of the country.

The National Movement is one of two Western-supported nationalist movements defeated in the Angolan civil war by the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

In response to questions, Mr. Carlucci said Cuban involvement elsewhere in Africa included the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

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